

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 51—NO. 119

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1915

PRICE TWO CENTS

## ASQUITH ANNOUNCES COALITION GOVERNMENT IS BEING FORMED; OUTLOOK IN ITALY IS GLOOMY

Premier Reports That Steps Are Being Taken to Reconstruct Government on a Broader Personal and Political Basis—Many Changes Are Looked For in Cabinet.

Berlin Reports That Italian Situation is Now Acute, Though Rome Denies That Ambassadors Have Left—Russian Retreat in Galicia Called "Strategic Victory" By Allies.

London, May 19.—Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons today that steps were in contemplation which involved a reconstruction of the government upon a broader personal and political basis.

It is rumored that A. J. Balfour, former premier, will succeed Winston Spencer Churchill as first lord of the admiralty, the latter taking some other office. The coalition, if it takes place, will be between strong Unionist and Labor leaders.

"Nothing has been definitely arranged as yet," the Premier said, "but in order to avoid any possible misapprehension I wish to make clear here and now three things."

"First—Any changes will not affect the position of the prime minister or of the foreign secretary.

"Second—There will be no change of any kind in the policy of the country as regards the continued prosecution of the war with all possible energy and by means of every available resource."

"Third—And last, and of great importance to the honorable friends behind me, I have no doubt, to the opposition, is this: any reconstruction of the cabinet that may be made will be for the purpose of the war alone and is not to be taken in any quarter or for any reason as indicating anything in the nature of a surrender or a compromise on the part of any person or body of persons, of any political party."

"This is as clear as day. Nothing definite yet has taken place; but if any arrangement is made the House will have the fullest opportunity of expressing its views."

All the morning papers to-day agree that the government's increasing difficulties led them to seek the co-operation of Unionist leaders. They indicate the resigning of such ministers as Viscount Haldane, Lord Chancellor, Lord Harcourt, secretary of state for colonies; Augustine Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland; the Earl of Beauchamp, first commissioner of works; Sir John Lubbock, president of the board of agriculture; J. A. Pease, president of the board of education; and C. B. Holeshouse, postmaster general.

The trouble between Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, and Lord Fisher, resulted in the first naval attack on the Dardanelles in ignorance of the fact that the sea lords were opposed to naval operations until supported by land forces.

Among the latest rumors is one to the effect that Lord Kitchener is to become generalissimo and that David Lloyd George will succeed him at the war office.

England, distracted by the political upheaval which is expected to result in a coalition government, finds little time to interest herself in war news but nevertheless the Russian situation is causing a feeling of pessimism.

The official Russian announcements do not wholly confirm the pessimistic special despatches from Petrograd but they admit that the Russian retreat along the river San is still under way. At the same time, they claim the Russians have been able to resume the offensive on the left bank of the Vistula, a movement which may result, it is explained, in outflanking the Germans attacking Przemyśl.

In France and Belgium bad weather again is impeding operations, continuous rain and thick mists making rigorous action impossible. The British north of La Bassée, and the French north of Arras have held their recent gains but they have not been able to move forward.

Italy seems no nearer war today than she did yesterday, but persistent reports are reaching London that the Teutonic ambassadors in Rome have been handed their passports and will leave today.

## ITALIAN OUTLOOK GLOOMY, REPORTS TO BERLIN PAPERS

Berlin, May 19.—The Rome correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt today sends a pessimistic despatch from the Italian capital, declaring: "The short parliamentary interlude is ended. 'The street has won.' Italian despatches to other Berlin newspapers were of a similar tenor."

## LATEST WAR BULLETINS

U. S. Diplomats Asked to Serve  
Washington, May 19.—Both Austria and Italy have asked the United States to care for their diplomatic interests in Rome and in Vienna, respectively, in the event of a severance of diplomatic relations. The Washington government has instructed its embassies at the two capitals to be in readiness to do so.

Austria Offers New Concessions?  
Rome, May 19.—Foreign Minister Sonnino is reported to have informed the Council of Ministers at its session last evening that offers of additional territorial concessions had been received from Austria.

Bulgarian Reservists Are Called  
London, May 19.—All reserve officers in the Bulgarian army have been called to the colors for a month's training, says a Times despatch from Sofia.

Frye Case to Prize Court  
Washington, May 19.—Germany has sent to a prize court the case of the American sailing ship William P. Frye, sunk in the South Atlantic last January by the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich. It is said by officials here that the reference of the case to a prize court will not necessarily prevent diplomatic adjustment.

Another British Steamer Torpedoed  
Cardiff, Wales, May 19.—The British steamer Drumcree, which left Barry yesterday, has been torpedoed in the English Channel. The members of her crew have been saved. The steamer Drumcree was built in Sunderland in 1905. She was of 2,557 tons register and 347 feet long. She was owned in Liverpool.

Deny Passports Have Been Asked  
Rome, May 19.—At the Austrian and German embassies last night denial was made of the reports that Prince Von Buslow, the German ambassador, and Baron Von Macchio, the Austrian ambassador, have demanded their passports or that their departure is imminent.

## ANOTHER JURY HOLDS KAISER TO BE GUILTY OF "WILFUL MURDER"

Ramsgate, Eng., May 19.—A coroner's jury today returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against Emperor William, in the case of John Smith, who died as the result of shock following injuries sustained in the Zeppelin raid of Monday, May 17. The coroner had suggested that the jury fix the responsibility on the persons whom it regarded as being to blame for war waged in this manner.

Three More Bodies Found  
Queenstown, May 19.—The bodies of three victims of the Lusitania disaster, two men and one woman, were recovered from the sea yesterday. The men presumably are Charles H. Lund of Chicago, and Montague F. Grant of London and Chicago. The body of the woman has not been identified.

## CORONER WILL EXONERATE TWO SAILORS WHO RAN DOWN CANOE

Coroner Phelan will make a finding tomorrow that Ralph Bartlett, who was drowned when a motor boat in which Captain C. E. Demmons and Mate Olie Houston of Rockland, Me., were sailing, rammed and upset a canoe in which Bartlett and George Pullen were paddling, met death by accident. The canoe was upset in the Pequonnock river about 12 o'clock last Sunday morning. Demmons and Houston are still held by the police under \$5,000 bonds on a charge of manslaughter.

The fact that the men admit they were intoxicated by the excessive use of gin before they rammed the canoe, is the only reason the coroner has not ordered their discharge. Coroner Phelan is convinced that Captain Demmons and Mate Houston did not wilfully run down the canoe. He is insisting that the master and mate of the schooner Brigadier be held until he can satisfy himself as to the law governing the responsibility of persons who operate motor boats while under the influence of liquor.

Georgia Man Sued For Divorce In This City  
Papers were filed in the superior court this afternoon in divorce proceedings brought by Catherine W. Sinclair of Greenwich, against Alexander M. Sinclair of Gordon, Ga. Intolerable cruelty and desertion, February 15, 1912, are alleged. The couple were married October 12, 1904. Mrs. Sinclair's maiden name was Catherine Williams.

A corps of doctors began a house to house canvass of New Rochelle, N. Y., to vaccinate all persons who have not been successfully vaccinated in three years.

## SHERIFF PEASE ANNOUNCES HIS LOCAL DEPUTES

Stowe, Steigler, Nichols, Kiernan and Cunningham In This City.

FIRST TIME CITY HAS FIVE DEPUTIES

Score of New Deputies Who Will Take Office June 1 Assemble Here Today.

The appointments of four deputy sheriffs were announced today by Sheriff-elect Simeon Pease. They are Mortimer D. Stowe of 944 Cleveland avenue, Robert F. Nichols of 961 Stratford avenue, Alderman Wenzel G. Steigler of 105 Caroline street and James Kiernan of 150 Madison avenue.

Stowe is a Republican worker in the Sixth district. He ran for alderman several times but has never been elected. In the last campaign Alderman William J. Moran won from Stowe by 45 votes. Stowe is a charcoal dealer.

Nichols is a 12th district worker. He has been active in politics for a number of years and was long ago promised an appointment as deputy.

Steigler is an alderman from the Tenth district. He is employed in the Armstrong Mfg. Co.

Kiernan at present is employed as boss at the city yard. He was an inspector in the employ of the Connecticut Co. a few years ago.

All were at the county courthouse today in response to an invitation from Sheriff-elect Pease who wished to have his local deputies together with the deputies from other parts of the county gathered here to become acquainted.

Increasing the number of Bridgeport deputies to five is also a new departure. Sheriff Vollmer appointed four: John M. Donnelly, Joseph Weiser, Charles E. Mara and Antonio Abbot. They go out of office June 1 when the new officials will be sworn in.

The out of town deputy appointments made previously by the sheriff were: Fred Hibbard, Bethel; Warren C. Allen, Sherman; Selah G. Blakeman, Huntington; J. F. Olmstead, Monroe; Lincoln R. Taylor, Stamford; E. D. Perry, Westport; Geo. S. Banks, Redding; Harold W. Allen, Greenwich; William E. Luke, Danbury; Edward B. Doolan, South Norwalk; W. Benedict, Norwalk; W. E. Gould, Fairfield; Morris D. George, Newtown; John W. French, Trumbull; Mills Tomlinson, Stratford.

The successful pupils and the subjects on which they will speak at the graduation are: Anna Apstein, "The Aeroplane and the Submarine"; War. Marie Hotchkiss, "Our Relations to Latin America"; Elizabeth M. C. Lee, "Our Duty in the Philippines"; Edward C. Weiss, "Our Duty in the Philippines."

The essays were written by the 15 or more young men and young women who competed for the opportunity of speaking Commencement Night were General Henry A. Blahop, Mrs. George E. Russell and William T. Hincks. The essays will be delivered June 22.

The Barnum prize was instituted by the late Phineas T. Barnum. He bequeathed \$1,000 in trust to the board of education, the interest of which was to be devoted as an incentive to improve the literary and elocutionary standard of the pupils of the Bridgeport High school. Thirty dollars in gold, or an equivalent medal is given for the first prize and the second is \$20 in gold or the equivalent medal.

Miss Apstein is the daughter of David Apstein, of 1,325 Pembroke street.

Miss Hotchkiss is the daughter of Mrs. Gladys L. Hotchkiss, prominent among the members of the Christian Scientist faith in this city. She lives at 355 Prospect street.

Miss Lee's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lee of 286 Gregory street.

Miss Weiss has been an officer of the class for three years.

Miss Marsh is the daughter of Walter E. Marsh, the safe expert. She is a dancer of remarkable grace and has entertained at many social gatherings in the city.

Edward C. Weiss is the son of Mrs. A. E. Weiss of 33 Baldwin street. He was leading man in the senior class play.

## BROWN TO GET CUNNINGHAM'S JOB AS SEALER

William H. Brown, police commissioner, has resigned his position as engineer at the Crane Valve Co. to succeed Thomas F. Cunningham as county sealer of weights and measures.

The salary in the future will be \$1,800 per year. Mr. Brown for 22 years has been connected with the Crane plant. Years ago he was the engineer on William E. Burnham's yacht in the summer time and an engineer in the factory in winter. It had been arranged that Mr. Brown was to take the job as engineer of the new High school. But there is some question as to when the school will be finished and as to how much the school board will be able to pay an engineer there.

Mr. Brown considers a bird in the hand worth two in the bush and consequently takes the sealer's job.

Mr. Brown's resignation in the factory will take place on June 1. His successor has not been selected for the job at the Crane plant. After July 15 it is arranged that he will resign as police commissioner and Attorney James A. Turner is said to be slated to succeed him. Mr. Brown's term is for two years.

Weather Forecast  
Fair with frosts. Moderate northwest to north winds.

## NEW JERSEY, PREY OF WARRENITE RING, AIRS SCANDAL OF PAVEMENT GRAB THROUGH OFFICIAL REPORT

### I. O. O. F. GRAND LODGE ELECTIONS ARE UNANIMOUS

Naugatuck Man Becomes Grand Master—Judge Stevenson is Grand Representative.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, attracted 40 accredited delegates to this city today to hear addresses by Grand Sire Robert T. Daniel, Grand Master Henry C. Stevenson, and guests of the order, as well as to listen to the rendering of reports and await the election of officers for the ensuing year.

In the election of officers there was but one nomination for each office, resulting in the following ticket, which was endorsed by the convention:

Grand master, R. P. W. Adams, Naugatuck; deputy grand master, F. H. Monroe, New Haven; grand scribe, George M. Chapman, Waterbury; grand secretary, William H. Hutchison, New Haven; treasurer, Sidney W. Challenger, Bridgeport; junior representative, H. C. Stevenson, Bridgeport; senior representative, Philip H. Pond, New Haven.

Following laborious work by the credentials committee in checking up the various guests later added to the list, the convention opened at 10 o'clock, being called to order by Grand Master Stevenson of Bridgeport.

Mayor Wilson welcomed the delegates to this city. He was followed by Grand Sire Daniel of Georgia who in executive session delivered an address upon conditions of the order.

With complimentary reference to the various guests later added to the list, the convention and including Grand Master James Bennett, Lynn, Mass.; Grand Instructor William W. Webber, Boston, Mass.; Grand Secretary Frank E. Trueman, New York; Grand Master Walter H. Tripp and Grand Secretary Frank L. Way, of Manchester; Grand Master George W. Bechtold, Jersey City, N. J.; Grand Secretary Harry S. Fine, Trenton, N. J.; Grand Master D. M. McIntyre and Grand Secretary William S. Brooks, Toronto Canada and Past Grand Sire Alfred S. Pinkerton of Worcester, Mass., Grand Master Stevenson offered his report in which he said:

"The condition of the order in the state is excellent everywhere, active and growing. The net gain in membership in subordinate lodges, he said, was over 500 and in the Rebekah lodges over 600 during the year ending Jan. 1st. He continued:

"We have in this state over 24,000 subordinate members and over 8,000."

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## FOUR GIRLS TO ONE BOY AMONG PRIZE SPEAKERS

Five Essays Selected For Literary Merit Will Be Delivered At Graduation.

Four girls, and only one young man, will compete for the Barnum prize at the commencement exercises of the Bridgeport High school senior class. In the elimination contests the feminine members of the class outshone their brethren.

The successful pupils and the subjects on which they will speak at the graduation are: Anna Apstein, "The Aeroplane and the Submarine"; War. Marie Hotchkiss, "Our Relations to Latin America"; Elizabeth M. C. Lee, "Our Duty in the Philippines"; Edward C. Weiss, "Our Duty in the Philippines."

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## GROOM IN TRENCHES, FRIEND IS "PROXY" AT THE ALTAR RAIL

Paris, May 19.—The first marriage by proxy in this city took place yesterday at the city hall in the Latin Quarter. Alfred Lortu, the bridegroom, a Paris attorney, who is now a soldier in the 71st Infantry at the front, was represented by his friend, Fernand Souq. The bride was Mlle. Marie Marigny. The ceremony was performed in strict privacy and the bride wept as she made the responses.

## How the Warren Bros. Co. and the Standard Bitulithic Co. Reaped Rich Profits Through Forming What the Report Brands as "Conspiracy Against Public Interests."

### NEWARK STREET COMMISSIONER TELLS OF PAVING RING'S RULE

Has Bridgeport Been Paying 50 Cents a Yard Too Much For Warrenite? — Read the Official Documents of the New Jersey Legislature and Judge For Yourself.

Warrenite has dragged its broad and slimy trail through many communities, and has been more than once the subject of legislative investigation and a cause of legislative action. But not always has its peculiar methods in dealing with public affairs been so thoroughly aired as in New Jersey.

In New Jersey, according to the report of the Joint Appropriations Committee of the New Jersey legislature, dated Jan. 1915, "evidence that seems conclusive, was submitted by several witnesses, that a palpably dishonest conspiracy (which includes at least Warren Bros. Company of Boston and the Standard Bitulithic Company) existed in Essex County, where by a practical monopoly of the contracts for bituminous pavement is insured to the Standard Company, at inordinate prices."

The conclusions of the committee were in part as follows:

That the Standard Bitulithic Company was a subsidiary of the Warren Brothers Company, which had paid the Standard Bitulithic Company \$1,289,428 during the last four years, for laying pavements at a price averaging \$2.28 a yard for a two applied one-half inch surface upon a six inch concrete base. This, judging from the testimony of several witnesses, was considerably in excess of the price for bituminous concrete pavement laid in other cities.

In the county, outside of Newark, the favored bituminous pavement is Warrenite, which was specified exclusively by the county engineer and laid on Bloomfield avenue, Myrtle avenue and the Pompton Turnpike.

Testimony had been presented to the committee from many competent witnesses that the patented pavement of the bituminous concrete type two inches thick, which was the thickness of the Warrenite pavement laid in the county, could be laid at a price not exceeding ninety cents per square yard.

The price paid by Essex County for Warrenite on the Pompton Turnpike was \$1.81, which applied to about 50,000 yards of material. The state road commissioner had at first, it seems, approved the specifications which excluded competition as to type of pavement, and had made an allotment of \$52,000 of state funds for the contract. Subsequently, after the contract had been awarded, he decided that the price was excessive and refused to approve the contract.

The county engineer, Frederick A. Reimer, while admitting that he had specified Warrenite and had excluded all competing types of pavement, contended before the committee that, nevertheless, there had been competition on prices since he had required the Warren Brothers Company to file in his office, before the bidding, a uniform price per square yard of material that any contractor who bid upon the job might rely upon. This price was \$1.15. The standard Bitulithic Company, which had won the contract at \$1.81, could not possibly have done the work at such a figure without loss if it had to rely upon the price quoted for the material. The price of \$1.15, therefore, fixed nominally in the interest of free competition, was thus shown to be a pretense and a fraud. As a matter of fact it was shown, and should have been known by county officials, that the Standard Company made the patented paving material at its own plant at Harrison under a favored license arrangement with the Warren Brothers Company. There was strong evidence that the Standard Bitulithic Company was owned and controlled by the Warren Brothers Company and that the public price of \$1.15 for the material was fixed so as to exclude instead of promoting competition.

Dummy Bidders.  
A contractor paying \$1.15 for his material would have had to pay approximately twenty cents to haul and lay it, making \$1.35 the actual cost of the job to him. Adding twenty cents a yard as a reasonable profit, no honest contractor could afford to bid less than \$1.55 for doing the job. County Engineer Reimer, although he qualified as an experienced engineer, and said he had formerly been a contractor, showed astonishing ignorance of facts that might be embarrassing. He did not keep track of pavement prices in other places, he swore, and, therefore, did not know whether \$1.31 was too high or not. He would not tell even approximately what it would cost to haul or to lay a yard of Warrenite. He was sure, however, Warrenite was the best type of bituminous pavement, although he never saw any of it mixed, and had laid only a small quantity before he became county engineer of Essex County. He was also sure there had been honest competition as shown by the fact that there were

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Fraud in Patent Pavements.  
Circumstances relating to contracts for bituminous concrete pavements in Essex County point plainly to a conspiracy against the public interest whereby excessive prices were exacted for patented pavements both by the county authorities and the officials of the City of Newark. It appears that by reason of the fact that the county engineer of Essex County and the city engineer of Newark specify the products of the Warren Bros. Company exclusively, on all bituminous concrete work, and by reason also of the relations which have been shown to exist between the Warren Bros. Company and the Standard Bitulithic Company, all competition